crores from this activity for the period from 1987-88 to 1991-92.

(c) and (d) Bharat Gold Mines Limited has estimated an annual turnover of Rs. 23.00 crores by 1997-98.

Approval of Mining Leases/Plans in Rajasthan

1513. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the present procedure prescribed for seeking approval of Mining Leases/Plans in Rajasthan is causing considerable delay and loss of revenue to the State ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the proposed changes in the definition/scope of "Minor Minerals" would furthar complicate the income/revenue of State ; and

(c) whether Government propose to delegate the powers of approval of Mining Leases/Plans to the Directorate of Mines and Geology of Rajasthan ; if so, when and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV) : (a) The statutory limit within which the State Government is required to dispose of an application for a mining lease as also the period within which a mining plan is to be approved by the Indian Bureau of Mines as prescribed by Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 and Rules made there-under are adequate and, therefore, the question of delay and consequent loss of revenue to the State of Rajasthan on account of procedural formalities does not arise.

(b) There is no proposal to make any change in definition scope of "Minor Minerals" and hence, the question does not arise.

(c) There is no proposal to delegate the powers of approval of mining leases/plans to any State Directorate of Mines and Geology. The existing procedure for disposal of mining lease applications and approval of mining plans is considered, by and large, satisfactory.

Import of Coking Coal

@1514. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently decided to import 6.2 million tonne coking coal ;

(b) if so, what are the names of the countries from where coking coal is likely to be imported ; and

(c) what are the terms and conditions thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) and (b) After taking into consideration the demand of integrated steel plants of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP) and availability of coking coal, qualitatively as well as quantitatively, from indigenous sources, it is expected that total imports of coking coal by Public Sector Steel Companies will be around 6 million tonnes during 1992-93. While the source--countries have not yet been fully identified ; this being dependant upon the comercially beneficial bids/proposals to be received from global parties, due to freight advantage most of the imports are likely to take place from Australia.

(c) As far as terms and conditions for the import are concerned, the Public Sector Undertakings are required to finalise contracts of affreightment on "Free on Board" (FOB) basis. Detailed terms and conditions are finalised at time of issuance and finalisation of the notice inviting tender and the bids received in response thereto for purchase/import.

@Previously Unstarred Question 408, transferred from the 30th April, 1992